

Remarks

Claims 1-16 and 18-21 are currently pending in this application, with claim 17 being canceled by, and new claims 18-21 being added by the present Amendment.

The Office Action objected to the drawings as requiring a "Prior Art" legend for Fig. 2-1; and rejected claims 1, 4, 6, 7, 9, 12, 14, and 15 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Sasaki et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,298,374). The Office Action objected to claims 2, 3, 5, 8, 10, 11, 13, and 16 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but indicated that these claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

Applicant respectfully traverses the drawing objection because Fig. 2-1 does not show only that which is old, but rather shows both a conventional computer system and the virtualized network of the present invention. Designating Fig. 2-1 as "Prior Art" would be inappropriate because the figure also shows an embodiment of the present invention.

Applicant respectfully traverses the Section 102(e) rejection of claims 1, 4, 6, 7, 9, 12, 14, and 15, for the following reasons.

The present invention recited, for example, in claim 1, and claims 2-8, 18, and 20 at least by virtue of dependence, comprises a combination of elements, including a processor configured to execute instructions of each program for mimicking actions of corresponding real world entities.

In contrast, Sasaki et al. fail to disclose or suggest the combination of elements recited in claims 1-8, 18, and 20, including the processor configured to execute instructions of each program for mimicking actions of corresponding real world entities. Rather, the reference merely discloses a virtual space that tracks a person's physical position in the real world with a position detecting apparatus. When a real world person, having been assigned a "marker", moves from one physical

space to another, that movement is detected and the marker is moved to the new corresponding location of virtual memory space. Sasaki et al. disclose making a movement in the virtual world that corresponds with a movement of a user in the real world. The correspondence is between positions in the three-dimensional physical space and positions in the virtual space to enable tracking of a user's location. Thus, Sasaki et al. disclose nothing more than a position detecting apparatus in virtual space. Furthermore, the reference makes no mention of mimicking actions of corresponding real world entities, which is a feature of the present invention. The present invention allows a program to act for, or on behalf of, its corresponding real entity (a conceptual or physical person or device). The correspondence is for actions or behaviors.

The present invention recited, for example, in claim 9, and claims 10-16, 19, and 21 at least by virtue of dependence, comprises a combination of steps, including the steps of providing a plurality of programs, each program corresponding to a different entity contained in the real world; and mimicking actions of corresponding real world entities with the plurality of programs.

In contrast, Sasaki et al. fail to disclose or suggest the combination of steps recited in claims 9-16, 19, and 21 including the steps of providing a plurality of programs, each program corresponding to a different entity contained in the real world; and mimicking actions of corresponding real world entities with the plurality of programs. Rather, as discussed above for claims 1-8, 18, and 20, Sasaki et al. disclose nothing more than a position detecting apparatus in virtual space, and make no mention of mimicking actions of corresponding real world entities.

In light of the above, Applicant respectfully submits that the prior art of record, whether taken alone or in any reasonable combination, fail to disclose or suggest the invention recited in claims 1-16, and 18-21. Applicant, therefore, requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the Section 102(e)

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rejection of claims 1, 4, 6, 7, 9, 12, 14, and 15.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests the reconsideration of this application and the timely allowance of the pending claims.

If there are any other fees due in connection with the filing of this response, please charge the fees to our Deposit Account No. 03-2775. If a fee is required for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 not accounted for above, such an extension is requested and the fee should also be charged to our Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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